



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023A99-29
I-B-137

July 27, 2000

The Honorable Brenda Commander
Chief
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
Route 3 - Box 450
Houlton, ME 04730

Dear Chief Commander:

On July 18, 2000, John S. Seitz, Director of the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards issued the attached memorandum entitled "Guidance on 8-Hour Ozone Designations for Indian Tribes" supplementing the Boundary Guidance on Air Quality Designations for the 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards and 8-Hour Designation, issued March 28, 2000, by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This document offers additional information on recommendations for designating areas for the 8-hour ozone standard, if the Tribes choose to make recommendations to EPA. Its purpose is: (1) to provide Tribes an explanation of the Clean Air Act section 107 designation process and how it applies to the Tribe; (2) to describe the factors a Tribe should consider when recommending a designation for lands or areas within the Tribe's jurisdiction; and (3) to explain how EPA will consult with the Tribes.

The time line for making designation recommendations and for EPA to promulgate designations is potentially very short for both States and Tribes. However, due to the time needed for EPA to communicate this guidance and to provide assistance to the Tribes, the Tribes have until September 30, 2000 to recommend designations for the 8-hour ozone standard.

EPA's preliminary analysis for areas within your jurisdiction would support an attainment designation for your Tribe. Our analysis is based on data collected at twelve air quality monitoring sites in Maine. Of the twelve sites monitored, five monitors inland have measured ozone concentrations that meet the 8-hour ozone standard while those sites located at or near the Atlantic coast have measured ozone concentrations that exceed the 8-hour ozone standard.

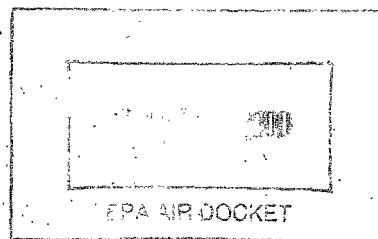
I want to emphasize our willingness to provide you the opportunity to learn about and to give input to this designation process. We encourage you to contact us if you are interested in making a designation recommendation and would like us to provide assistance. Please feel free to contact Ida Gagnon at 617-918-1653 or Richard Burkhart at 617-918-1664 if you have any questions about the attached material.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Rapp, Manager
Air Permits Program

Enclosure

cc: Sharri Venno



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